

**A Biblical Study of  
*The Catechism*  
*of the Catholic Church:*  
Bible Answers to the Most  
Frequently Asked Questions  
about Catholic Beliefs and Practices**

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**WAS PETER  
MARRIED?**

**IS PRIESTLY  
CELIBACY  
BIBLICAL?**

“All the ordained ministers of the Latin Church, with the exception of permanent deacons are normally chosen from among men of faith who live a celibate life and who intend to remain celibate ‘for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.’” (CCC 1579)

“In the Eastern Churches a different discipline has been in force for many centuries... married men can be ordained as deacons and priests. This practice has long been considered legitimate” (CCC 1580)

“Celibacy is a sign of this new life of the service of which the Church’s minister is consecrated; accepted with a joyous heart celibacy radiantly proclaims the Reign of God.” (CCC 1579)

Matthew 19:12 “For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.” (ESV)

Does Matthew 19:12  
sound like a  
voluntary choice  
among believers or a  
mandate for all  
priests?

Matthew 8:14 “And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever.” (ESV)

Mark 1:30 “Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her.” (ESV)

Luke 4:38 “And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. (ESV)



1 Corinthians 9:5 “Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?” (ESV)

Why does the  
encouragement of 1  
Corinthians 9:5  
encourage marriage in  
the example of Peter  
and Jesus' brothers?

1 Timothy 3:2 “Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach” (ESV)

Titus 1:6 “if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.” (ESV)

In the Biblical descriptions of qualifications (1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9) for overseers, bishops, elder, or pastors, are there ever any encouragements or mandates for singleness?

Why do these passages both reference the church leaders as being married?

1 Timothy 4:3 "who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth." (ESV)

Does the warning of 1  
Timothy 4:3 apply to  
the Catholic Church?  
For priestly celibacy?  
For lenten fasting?

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